

U.S. support to reach all kids with lifesaving vaccines

Vaccines are essential for helping kids survive and thrive. Increasing access to routine vaccines during childhood is a big reason why fewer kids are dying around the world, hitting a record low last year. But almost [5 million](#) children still died before their fifth birthday. We are not on track to end preventable child deaths — yet. There has been a big backslide in progress starting in 2020, and we [still haven't caught up](#) to where vaccination levels were in 2019. This means not enough kids are getting vaccines or are not getting them on time. Last year, 14 million kids missed out on the most basic vaccines.

[Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance](#), is a global partnership that focuses on increasing access to vaccines in lower-income countries. **Since it was created in 2000, Gavi has supported countries to vaccinate more than 1 billion children.**

Over the years, Gavi's work has been important in cutting down number of children who die from vaccine preventable diseases. Gavi negotiates lower prices for vaccines and helps get the newest vaccines to countries faster. They also support strengthening health systems and immunization programs in eligible countries. **Today, it costs \$18 per child to fully immunize children in low-income countries, [reduced from \\$24 in 2013.](#)**

Since 2010, Gavi has helped introduce new vaccines to fight two of most deadly diseases for kids: pneumonia and diarrhea. **Now, we finally have vaccines against another leading killer: malaria.** [Malaria kills](#) more than 600,000 people a year, mostly children in Africa. Gavi is preparing to support over 20 African countries to introduce these groundbreaking vaccines.

U.S. support for Gavi is as critical now as it has ever been

There is a long history of bipartisan support for Gavi, and the U.S. is a major donor. For the past six years, U.S. funding to Gavi for childhood immunization has been flat funded. This means Gavi received the same amount of funding each year, despite rising inflation.

[Now, Gavi is prepping to support countries](#) to recover from lost progress due to COVID-19. They are gearing up to deepen efforts to reach all children who have not received any vaccine doses, introduce lifesaving malaria vaccines, and support the sustainable growth of vaccine manufacturing in Africa. **It's essential that the U.S. and other donors come to the table with increased funding to achieve these important goals.**

A bipartisan Gavi resolution ([H.Res.1286](#) / [S.Res.684](#)) led by Representatives Kean (R-NJ), Amo (D-RI), Salazar (R-FL) and Jacobs (D-CA) and Senators Wicker (R-MS) and Cardin (D-MD) is a great opportunity to show strong U.S. support ahead of the Gavi replenishment. The resolution emphasizes the importance of a multi-year commitment to Gavi and encourages increased funding for the next five years to ensure access to lifesaving vaccines and work towards ending preventable child and maternal deaths.